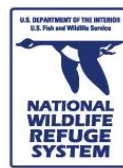




Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of R.I.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Summer 2017 *Wildlife Wednesdays* Lecture Series



Wildlife Wednesdays presentations are returning for our 12th year but with a shorter program than in most previous years—every Wednesday (almost) from June 21 through August 16 at 7:00 PM, at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Kettle Pond Visitor Center, 50 Bend Road, Charlestown, Rhode Island. Admission is free and all ages are welcome. For additional information visit us on Facebook, check our web page at <http://www.FriendsNWRofRI.org>, or contact Bob Kenney (friends.ri@verizon.net, 401-874-6664) or Janis Nepshinsky (Janis_Nepshinsky@fws.gov, 401-364-9124 ext. 4404).

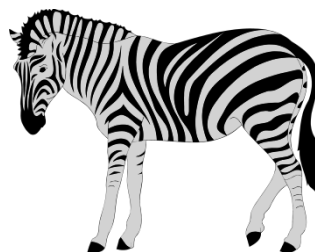
June 21: “North Atlantic Right Whales Then and Now,” with Dr. Bob Kenney, a marine biologist from the URI Graduate School of Oceanography who has spent his entire career researching the world's most endangered whale species. He will talk about what has been learned over the last 40 years, and compare the population's status today to what it was back at the beginning.



June 28: “The Amazing Woodcock.” Dr. Gerry Krausse, a professor emeritus from the URI Dept. of Marine Affairs, has entertained us numerous times in the past with his various video projects—the four seasons on Rhode Island's refuges, Yellowstone Park, Narragansett Bay's birds, and Maine's black bears. He's back this year with his latest video project, on the American woodcock. The “timberdoodle” is a shorebird that doesn't live at the shore, with an amazing courtship display that defies description.

July 5: No presentation because of the July 4th holiday.

July 12: “A Visit to Botswana,” with Dorothy & Tom Wadlow, who were our bonus presenters on the final day of 2016's Wildlife Wednesdays season—showing the photos from their birding trip to Patagonia. Most people think of the vast plains of Kenya or Tanzania or the tree-dotted savannahs of South Africa as the place to see wildlife in Africa. But Botswana, with a surprising range of habitats from the Kalahari Desert to the Okavango Delta wetlands, has one of the greatest diversities of birds and wildlife in all of Africa.



July 19: “Ecology and Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs,” with MaryEllen Mateleska, Director of Education and Conservation at Mystic Aquarium. The lineage of horseshoe crabs stretches back with little change some 450 million years. Their eggs are important food for migrating birds, but they are threatened by over-harvesting. MaryEllen will talk about their ecological, medical, and economic importance, and about Mystic's citizen-science monitoring and conservation program for the species.

July 26: “Freshwater Turtles of Rhode Island: How the Landscape Affects Populations,” with Scott Buchanan, a Ph.D. candidate in Natural Resources at URI. Scott will share the results from his research investigating the relationships between Rhode Island’s landscape and freshwater turtle distribution, abundance, demography, and population genetics. The presentation will emphasize painted turtles, snapping turtles, spotted turtles, and red-eared sliders.



August 2: “Narwhals: Arctic Whales in a Melting World” with Todd McLeish, writer, naturalist, and expert birder. Todd is coming back by popular demand for a repeat presentation about his third book on rare wildlife. Todd describes the world’s northernmost whale and the one most threatened by

global warming, as well as the scientists who study them, the Inuit who hunt them, and the other animals living in their Arctic habitats.

August 9: “Meet the Seabirds,” with Dr. Bob Kenney for his second brand-new presentation of the season. The seabirds—albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels, penguins, gannets, tropicbirds, frigatebirds, puffins, etc.—are some of the more interesting of the world’s birds. But most people rarely get to see them because of the remote places where they nest and forage. Dr. Bob will describe the major groups of seabirds and some of the aspects of their ecology and behavior, with plenty of photos and video clips.



August 16: “Ecuador: A Photographic Journey,” with Chris Powell—birder, naturalist, Jamestown Conservation Commission member, and retired RIDEM fisheries biologist. Chris and his wife Candy recently visited Ecuador, where the varied habitats stretch from the rugged Andes Mountains in the interior to the Galapagos Islands over 500 miles out in the ocean. Chris will share with us some of the best photos of birds and wildlife from that visit.

August 23 & 30: Open for last-minute volunteers, audience requests, or surprises. What would you like to hear more about? Check Facebook or the website for updates.

Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of Rhode Island is a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing conservation, education, and outreach activities on the five National Wildlife Refuges in our state. All donations to the Friends are tax-deductible.